AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

[c01] (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services by a computer, comprising:

receiving a request for communications service at a computer, the request for communications service originating from a client communications device and communicated to a service provider of a communications network;

communicating the request for communications service to other service providers;

receiving an availability message at the computer from at least one of the other service providers, the availability message describing what routing paths are immediately available and what bandwidth is immediately available along each routing path;

analyzing the availability message at the computer to dynamically ascertain a preferred scenario of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of electronic data to fulfill the request for communications service;

determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider;

grouping together packets of data that require the subcontracted processing service from the different service provider;

subcontracting the grouped together packets of data to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service; and

receiving a subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service; and

billing for the communications service.

[c02] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein analyzing each availability message comprises utilizing another communications network of another service provider.

[c03] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein analyzing each availability message comprises dynamically negotiating amongst the other service providers to fulfill the request for communications service.

[c04] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein analyzing each availability message comprises accessing a segmentation profile that comprises preferences for preferring one service provider to another service provider.

[c05] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein analyzing each availability message comprises accessing a segmentation profile that comprises preferences for preferring one communications network to another communications network.

[c06] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein analyzing each availability message comprises preferring a highest-rated service provider to provide the communications service.

[c07] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein analyzing each availability message comprises preferring a highest-rated communications network to provide the communications service.

[c08] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising aggregating billing charges between multiple service providers of multiple communications networks.

[c09] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, further comprising presenting a single billing statement, the single billing statement aggregating billing charges from another service provider of another communications network.

[c10] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising presenting multiple billing statements from multiple service providers of multiple communications networks.

[c11] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising billing a credit card for the communications service.

[c12] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising accessing a segmentation profile comprising preferences for billing for the communications service.

[c13] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising accessing a segmentation profile comprising preferences for presenting billing charges from another service provider of another communications network.

[c14] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising accessing a Service Level Agreement stored in memory, the Service Level Agreement defining preferences for billing for the communications service.

[c15] (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium storing processor executable instructions for performing a method, the method comprising:

receiving a request for communications service, the request for communications service originating from a client communications device and communicated to a service provider of a communications network;

communicating the request for communications service to other service providers;

receiving an availability message from at least one of the other service providers, the availability message describing what routing paths are immediately available and what bandwidth is immediately available along each routing path;

analyzing the availability message to dynamically ascertain a preferred scenario of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of electronic data to fulfill the request for communications service;

<u>determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider;</u>

grouping together packets of data that require the subcontracted processing service from the different service provider;

subcontracting the grouped together packets of data to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service; and

receiving a subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service; and

billing for the communications service.

[c16] (Original) A computer program product according to claim 15, further comprising instructions for dynamically negotiating amongst the other service providers to fulfill the request for communications service.

[c17] (Original) A computer program product according to claim 15, further comprising instructions for presenting a single billing statement that aggregates billing charges from another service provider.

[c18] (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

means for receiving a request for communications service, the request for communications service originating from a client communications device and communicated to a service provider of a communications network;

means for communicating the request for communications service to other service providers;

means for receiving an availability message from at least one of the other service providers, the availability message describing what routing paths are immediately available and what bandwidth is immediately available along each routing path;

means for analyzing the availability message to dynamically ascertain a preferred scenario of segmentation, dispersion, and assemblage of electronic data to fulfill the request for communications service;

means for determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider;

means for grouping together packets of data that require the subcontracted processing service from the different service provider;

means for subcontracting the grouped together packets of data to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service; and

means for receiving a subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service; and

means for billing for the communications service.

[c19] (Original) A system according to claim 18, further comprising means for dynamically negotiating amongst the other service providers to fulfill the request for communications service.

[c20] (Original) A system according to claim 18, further comprising means for presenting a single billing statement that aggregates billing charges from another service provider.